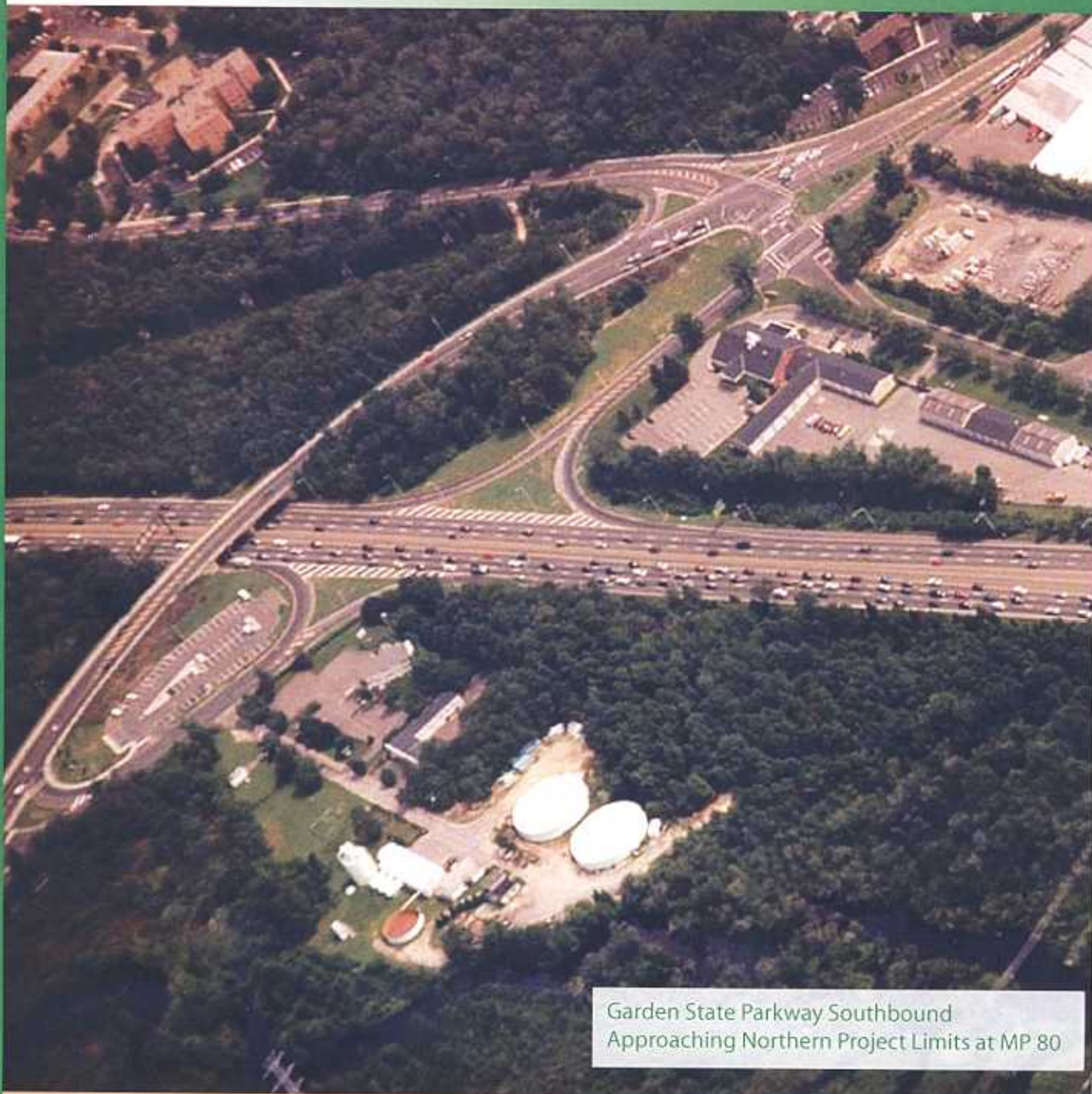


# Interchange 80 to 30 Widening



## New Jersey Turnpike Authority Public Information Meetings



Garden State Parkway Southbound  
Approaching Northern Project Limits at MP 80

## the meetings -

**Tuesday**  
**March 27, 2007**

4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Beachwood Community Center  
147 Compass Avenue  
Beachwood, NJ

**Wednesday**  
**March 28, 2007**

4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Galloway Township Hall  
300 East Jimmie Leeds Road  
Galloway Township, NJ

**Thursday**  
**March 29, 2007**

4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Barnegat Municipal Bldg.  
900 West Bay Avenue  
Barnegat, NJ



# project description-

The New Jersey Turnpike Authority is proposing to widen the Garden State Parkway between Interchange 80 in Toms River and Interchange 30 in Somers Point. The proposed project will take place within the existing right-of-way of the Garden State Parkway throughout the total project area consisting of approximately 50 miles. This portion of the Garden State Parkway that runs through Ocean County, Burlington County and Atlantic County includes 14 Municipalities: South Toms River Borough, Berkley Township, Beachwood Borough, Lacey Township, Barnegat Township, Stafford Township, Ocean Township, Eagleswood Township, Little Egg Harbor Township, Bass River Township, City of Port Republic, Galloway Township, Egg Harbor Township and the City of Somers Point.

The Garden State Parkway provides the vital north/south link in the highway system feeding the three east/west highway corridors into Atlantic City. The importance of the Parkway as an artery serving the tourism/recreation in the South Jersey Coast area is evidenced by the level of employment dependent on this industry in the area. Over 170,000 tourism jobs exist in the South Jersey Coast area, and the tourism jobs represent a high percentage of all jobs in the area (45% in Atlantic County, 34% in Ocean County, and 92% in Cape May County).

The high rate of development surrounding the Garden State Parkway/Route 9 Corridor, since the 1950's, has resulted in the Parkway roadway traffic exceeding existing capacity along 66% of the length of the project area. This current level of failure, and the projected additional segment failures, requires roadway infrastructure expansion to effectively service the traveling public. The New Jersey Department of Labor 2000-2025 population increase projections in the project area are 36% in Ocean County and 28.0% in Atlantic County and Burlington County.

The New Jersey Turnpike Authority has planned the addition of one lane to each roadway (northbound and southbound) and increased shoulder widths. During the project planning stages and site reconnaissance, environmental constraints were encountered. As a result, the Authority analyzed these constraints in order to determine the most feasible design scheme to preserve and protect these environmentally sensitive areas. Based on these compelling factors, the proposed roadway widening will take place within the median wherever possible. In certain areas, the roadway alignment was shifted in order to promote safe vehicular circulation and to minimize environmental impacts. Of the total 50 miles, 70% or 35 miles of the widening will be in the median.

The first phase of the widening will be from Milepost 80 to Milepost 63 and the Replacement of the Mullica River Bridge. As part of the widening from MP 80 – MP 63, the Barnegat Toll will be made one way southbound (free northbound) [March 2007] and Express EZ Pass will be installed southbound.





## project need -

- Current Population and Future Projected Growth in Ocean, Burlington and Ocean Counties
- Increase in Traffic as a Result of the Population Growth
- Deterioration of Major Structures along the Garden State Parkway
- Maintaining a Functioning North – South Evacuation Corridor

## project environmental impacts -

**Wetlands** – 7.707 acres of impacts through 100 roadway miles equates to less than 0.08 acres or 3400 SF of impact per mile.

**Threatened and Endangered Species** – 70.9 acres of suitable habitat impacts (less than 5% of the total project area). No direct impacts to any species. \*

*\* This impact may increase slightly due to revisions to the storm water management plan for the project.*

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## proposed mitigation\* -

Wetlands – Impacts are proposed to be mitigated through the acquisition of 216 acres within the Bass/Mullica River Basins. The Turnpike's consultants propose to utilize this property for the creation, enhancement and preservation of 7.707 acres of wetlands.

Threatened and Endangered Species – Impacts are proposed to be mitigated in several ways for both the Pinelands Commission and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ("NJDEP"). For the NJDEP (CAFRA area impacts), the Turnpike Authority anticipates involvement 1) to reforest 90 acres of land located on Forked River Wildlife Management Area to address Critical Habitat impacts and 2) to construct multiple wildlife tunnel crossings under the Garden State Parkway to connect populations of certain species separated by the initial construction of the roadway, thus enhancing threatened and endangered species habitat. For the Pinelands Commission, the Turnpike Authority proposes to purchase and permanently preserve 210 acres of valuable threatened and endangered species habitat located within the Pinelands Area.

Public Access to the Waterfront – As a portion of the proposed project, the NJTA will create three public access areas to the waterfront. The proposed public access locations will provide public fishing areas at locations that are designated as prime fishing areas within the vicinity of the Bass River and Mullica River. The exact locations of the public access areas are currently being negotiated with the NJDEP. Once the final locations are determined, formal design plans and permit applications for the public access facilities will be submitted to the NJDEP and United States Army Corps of Engineers for review and approval.

\*All mitigation is proposed and has not yet received formal agency approval.



## preliminary project schedule -

Obtain Permit Approvals - January 2008

Begin Construction: MP63 to MP80 - February 2008

Complete Construction: MP63 to MP80 - May 2009

## public information meeting agenda -

4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

*Turnpike representatives will be available around the project display boards to answer questions and discuss the project.*

*A presentation will be given at the times stated below, at each meeting.*

### Presentation Times:

4:45 pm to 5:00 pm

6:30 pm to 6:45 pm